

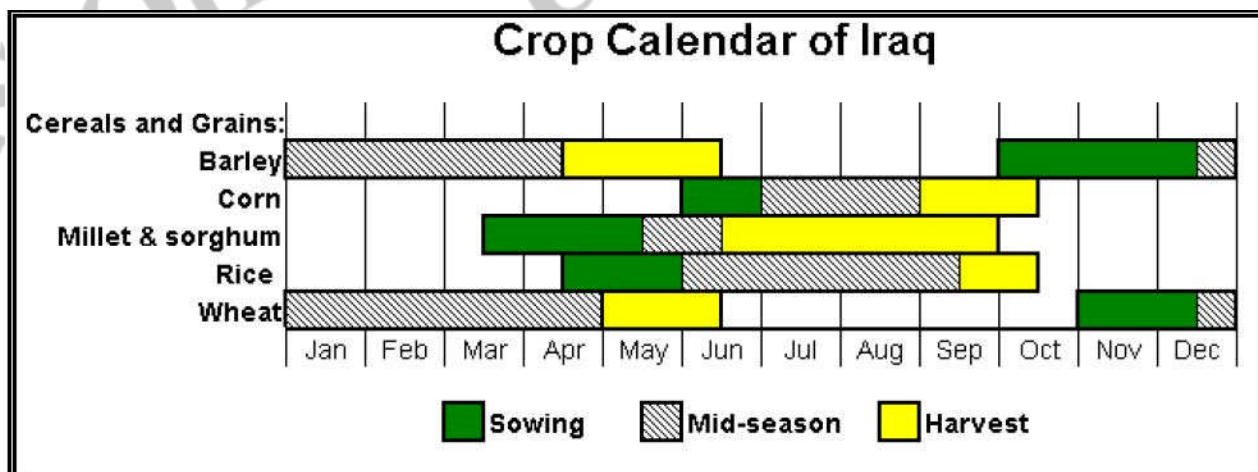
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September Report – Week 3

September 19th, 2008

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most. Lower production is also expected in the central and southern governorates.
2. Summer crop production for MY 2008/09 is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to drought conditions and irrigation limitations. The most significant production decreases are expected in the central and southern governorates.
3. MODIS NDVI change detection analysis was used to compare current NDVI (2008) with the 9-year average and with the previous year (2007). Departure from the 9-year average showed areas of decreased NDVI in the governorates of At Ta'min, Salah ad Din, Diyala, and Al Anbar. Slightly increased values were noted in southern Wasit and Dhi Qar (Figure 1). Compared to the previous year NDVI (2007), decreased values were also apparent in the abovementioned governorates; however, NDVI significantly increased in portions of Ninawa, Arbil, eastern At Ta'min, and northern Diyala (Figure 2).
4. AWiFS derived normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) for the months of July and September were compared using change detection analysis. The analysis showed signs of harvest in regions of Arbil, Ninawa, and Babil (Figure 3).



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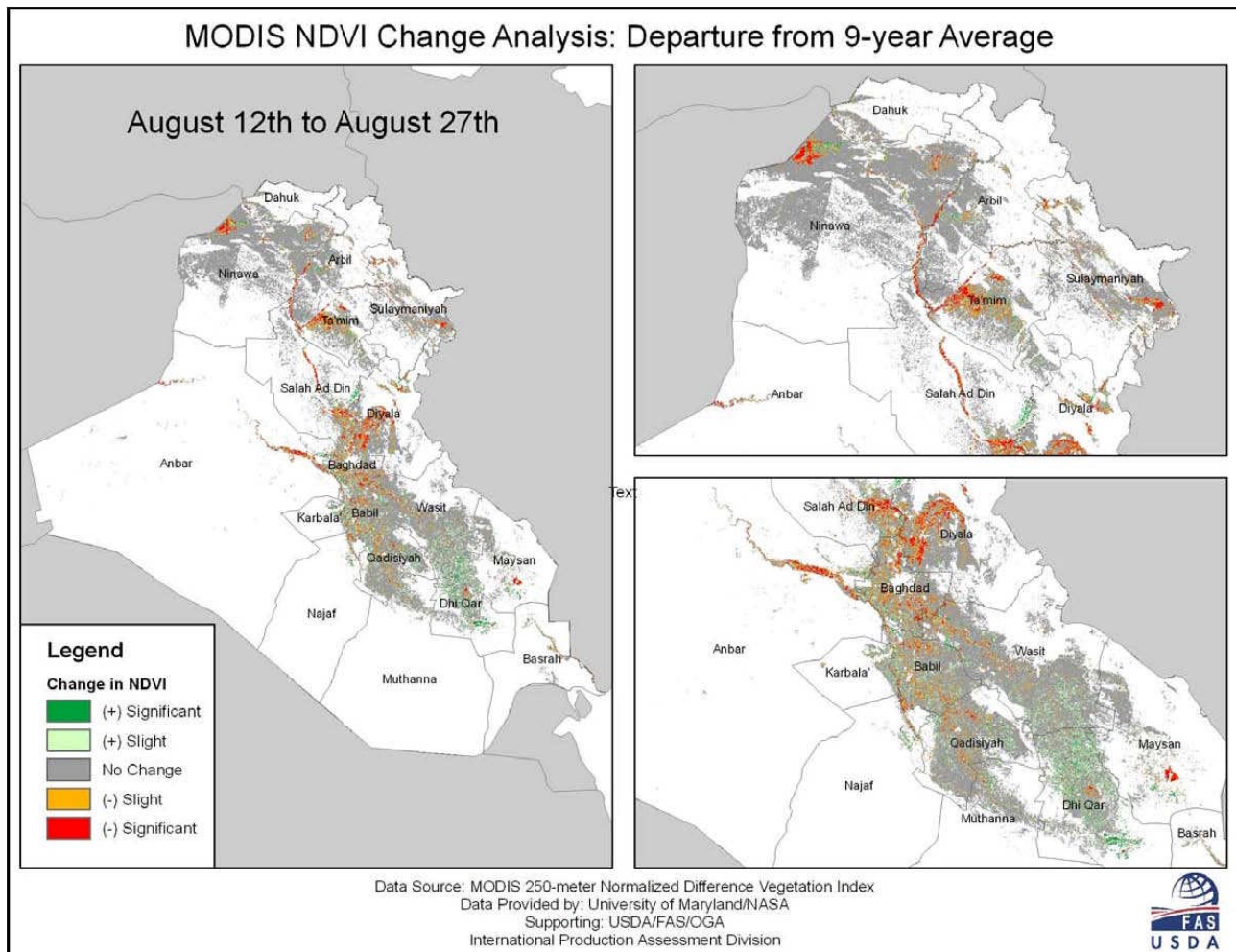


Figure 1: MODIS NDVI departure from 9-year average: August 12th to August 27th.

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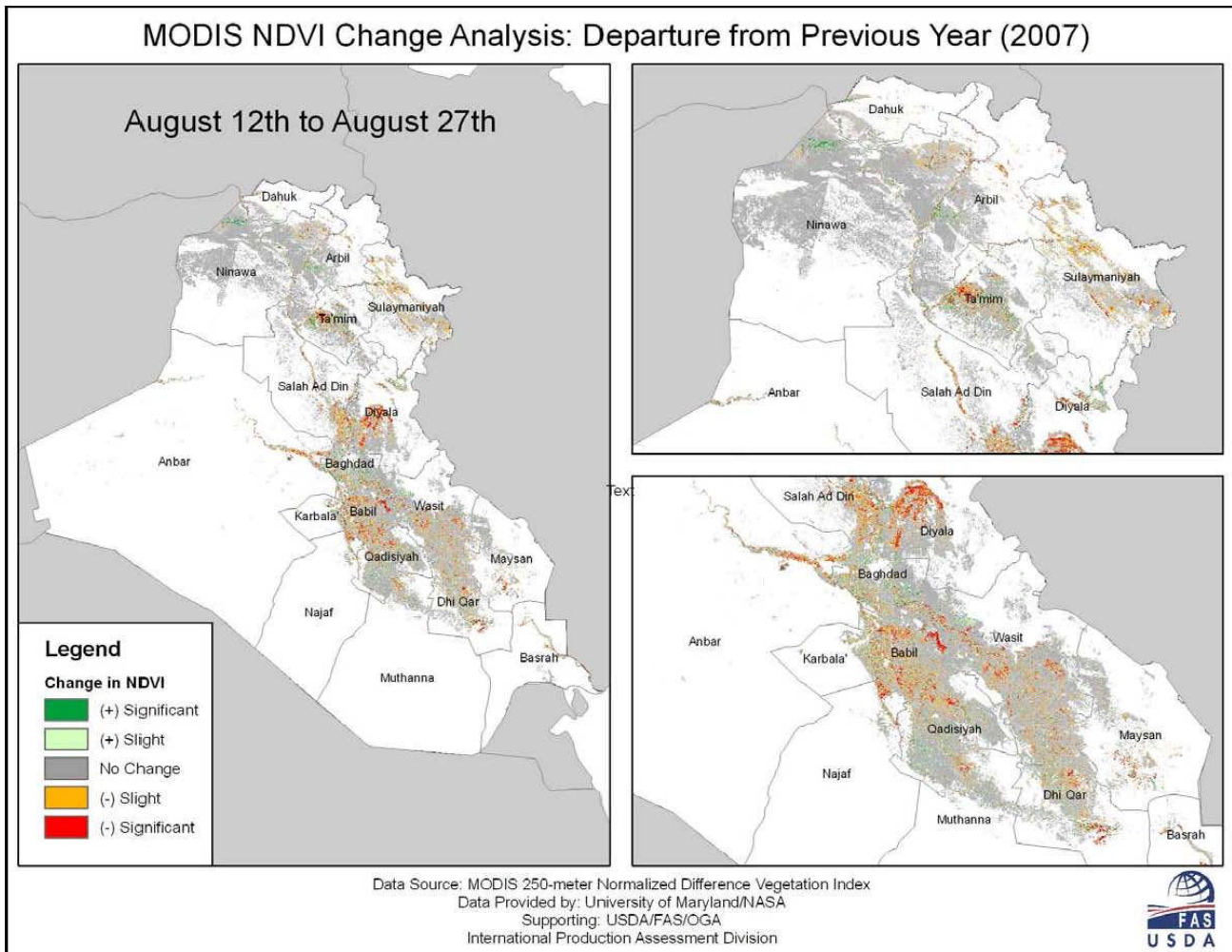


Figure 2: MODIS NDVI departure from previous year (2007): August 12th to August 27

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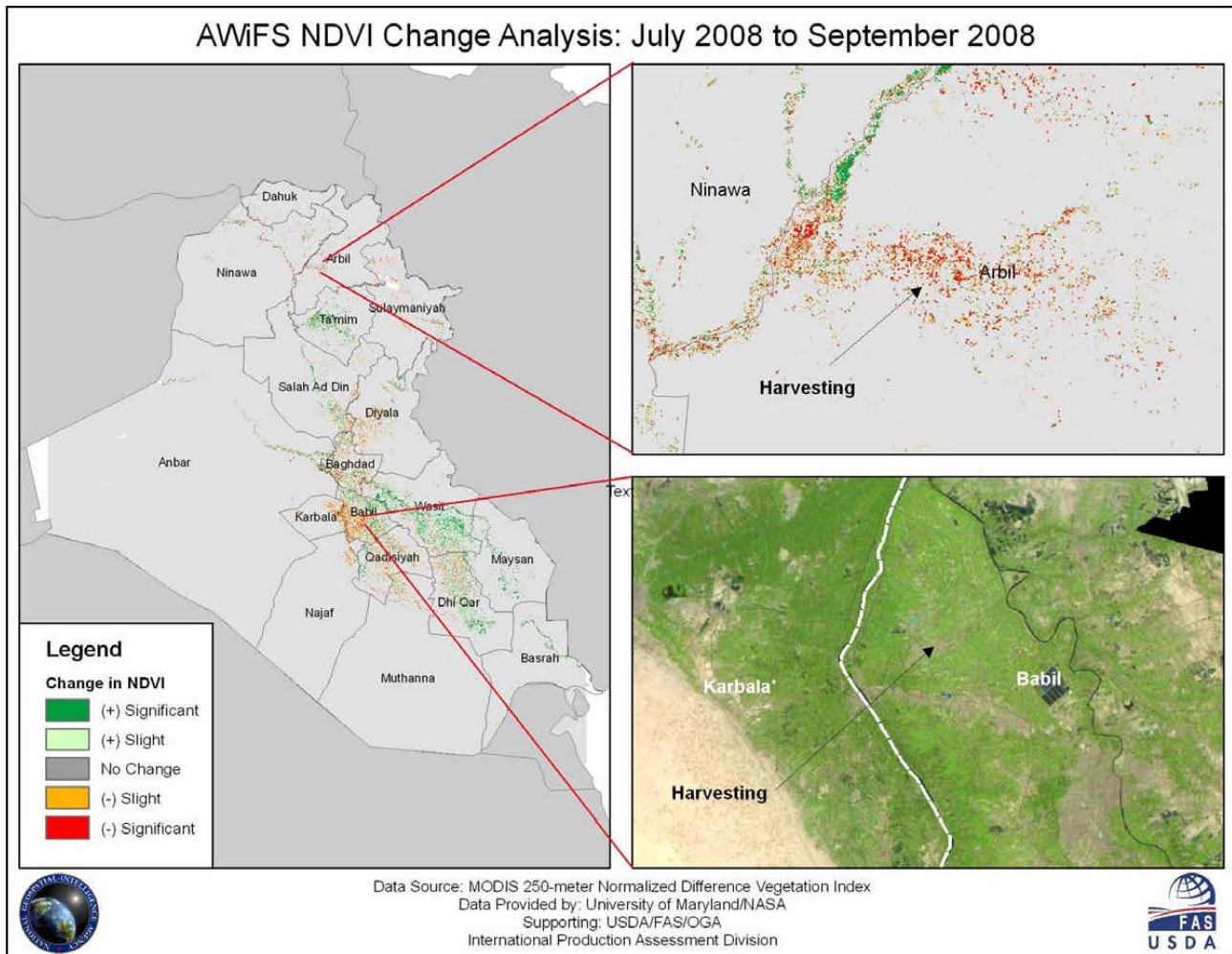


Figure 3: AWiFS NDVI change analysis between July 2008 and September 2008.